

README File for 2020 Census National Redistricting Data Summary Files Delivered via FTP

***Note:** Users processing these FTP files in a Windows environment should read carefully the File Information section of this document.*

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About the FTP Application

This FTP (File Transfer Protocol) application is intended for experienced users of census data, zip files, and spreadsheet/database software. It provides quick access for data users such as State Data Centers and news media who need to begin their analysis immediately upon data release. Due to the size of the files, the FTP user should have a fast file transfer capability.

The FTP Directory

The FTP directory is at https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/01-Redistricting_File--PL_94-171. When the 2020 Census National Summary File of Redistricting Data files are added to the FTP directory, they will contain a single zip package with a single geoheader file and three data segment files. See below for more information on Segmented Data.

Users of the FTP application need to unzip the package after downloading, then import the data into the spreadsheet/database software of their choice for data analysis and table presentation. We are unable to provide one-on-one support for applications of the data to specific spreadsheets or database software.

File Information

Once the package is unzipped, the files are in the Unicode Transformation Format (UTF-8). The geographic header file and data files are pipe delimited. Both the geographic header and the data files contain geographic linking fields. These files have been constructed in a LINUX environment.

For successful use with many programs running in a Windows environment, these files need to be modified to use the UTF-8 carriage return/linefeed sequence, chr(13) + chr(10) as a record terminator. This is an easy step in the UnZIP process using any UnZIP software which offers the conversion option.

The resulting file will meet the ANSI MS-DOS/Windows standard used by Access and other MS Windows-based programs. If the data are being processed in a LINUX environment, they can be unzipped using any standard Linux ZIP/UnZIP package.

Segmented Data

The data in the National Summary File of Redistricting data files are segmented. This is done so that individual files will not have more than 255 fields, facilitating exporting into spreadsheet or database software. In short, **to get a complete set of the national redistricting data summary files, users must use all four files in the package.**

The files are as follows:

- Geographic Header file
- File01 (Tables P1 and P2)
- File02 (Tables P3, P4, and H1)
- File03 (Table P5)

It is easiest to think of the file set as a logical file. This logical file consists of four physical files: the geographic header file, file01, file02, and file03. A unique logical record number (LOGRECNO in the geographic header) is assigned to all files for a specific geographic entity; all records for that entity can be linked together across files. Additional identifying fields are also carried over from the geographic header file to the table files. These are file identification (FILEID), state/U.S. abbreviation (STUSAB), characteristic iteration (CHARITER), and characteristic iteration file sequence number (CIFSNUM).

The geographic header record layout is identical across all electronic data products from the 2020 Census. Since the National Summary File of Redistricting data files are quite simple, some of the fields, including some geographic header fields that appear in all four files (geographic header, segments 1, 2, and 3) are constant. For example, the characteristic iteration (CHARITER) field will be used in later 2020 Census data products but in the National Summary File of Redistricting

data files, it is always coded as 000.

File Record Layout

For a layout of the individual tables for each file see Chapter 6, Data Dictionary, in the 2020 Census National Redistricting Data Summary File Technical Documentation:

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/summary-file/2020Census_PL94_171Redistricting_NationalTechDoc.pdf>

Other Sources of the Data

The 2020 Census National Redistricting Data Summary File data will be available primarily through the Census data exploration platform data.census.gov by September 30, 2021. The geographic products available on www.census.gov through the Geography Section include block, state legislative district with voting district, tract, and school district reference maps, TIGER®/Line shape files, Block Assignment Files with corresponding Name Lookup Tables, and 2010 to 2020 block relationship files. These geographic products are delivered to official recipients of the Redistricting Data Program on removable media to support states with their redistricting efforts. There are no related printed reports or listings.

To request assistance with these products, contact the Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office at 301-763-4039 or rdo@census.gov.